

And to all a 'tech' night

Technology goodies in all shapes and sizes

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Reel-y high movies

A&E looks at the best stoner films of all time.

■ A&E, Page 6



2007 in review

Skyhawk football season wrap

■ Sports, Page 9

VOLUME 80
ISSUE 13

THE PACER

UTMPACER.COM



Fall deficiency classes full with 12 percent of students

John Summers

Nearly 12 percent of the 6,717 undergraduates enrolled during the fall semester came to college unprepared and are paying for it by being required to take deficiency classes, all of which do not count towards degree requirements.

According to a review by *The Pacer* of UTM's Banner computerized information system, 120 students enrolled in the various 10 sections of Reading 100, 233 students in the nine sections of Math 070, 341 students in the 12 sections of Math 080, 4 students in the one section of Math 090, 50 students in the eight sections of English

100, and 32 students in the two sections of English 110.

The Office of Admission's research states that there were only 26 freshmen considered "academically deficient."

The same research showed, however, that the average ACT scores of the freshmen entering UTM with deficiencies was only one point lower than the average ACT score of all incoming freshmen, which was a composite score of 22.

"These students apparently do not have trouble taking standardized tests, based on the average ACT scores," said Judy Rayburn, director of

the Office of Admissions.

The statistics also show that the number of students entering with deficiencies "has been comparable over the last few years," Rayburn said.

The Student Success Center has many classes to help the students with deficiencies.

According to the Student Success Center Web site, "Mandatory placement in Reading 100 will apply to all students with an ACT Composite score of less than 20 and ACT reading scores below 18."

"Reading 100 helps students to increase their

— See 'Deficiencies' on Page 5



Laptop computers stolen from Elam offices

Will York

Campus police on Monday were investigating a string of laptop computer thefts from UT Martin sports buildings, and one of the computers contained students' private information, officials said.

Some of the athletic coaches' offices in the Elam Center and Skyhawk Fieldhouse were locked when the five computers were taken last week, Capt. Ray Coleman said.

Because there were no signs of forced entry, Coleman said police are casting a wide net in hopes of finding whoever is responsible, including interviewing everyone with keys to the buildings.

Most of the computers were taken from the sports arena Nov. 13 during a basketball game, when Skyhawk player Lester Hudson posted the first quadruple-double in college basketball history.

"The investigation is hot and heavy," Coleman said. "The entire situation is strange, and there are a lot of 'ifs.'"

Police haven't named a suspect or person of interest in the case.

One computer contained academic data and Social Security numbers for 25 students, but university spokesman Bud Grimes said all the computers were password-protected and there haven't been any signs of identity theft.

Grimes said the university informed all 25 students about the potential identity leak by mail. All the students were still living on campus, he said.

"They've run forensics on all the information that was on (the computers)," Grimes said, "so if someone misuses it, there's a trail we can go after."

Grimes said he hasn't heard of any keys reported missing.

All the computers had UTM identifiers—such as the college's logo—etched onto them.

The potential private information leak comes just weeks after a nonprofit found personal information and some Social Security numbers posted online for up to 240 applicants to a high school summer program run by the university.

Martin Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$500 for anonymous information about the thefts, Grimes said. Information may be reported by calling 731-587-2611 or visiting the Department of Public Safety's Web site.

— On the Net:
<http://crime.utm.edu/>

Biodiesel the way forward, prof says

Will York

A UT Martin chemistry professor says a renewable form of diesel—not the more widely accepted ethanol—is the best way to achieve long-term energy independence.

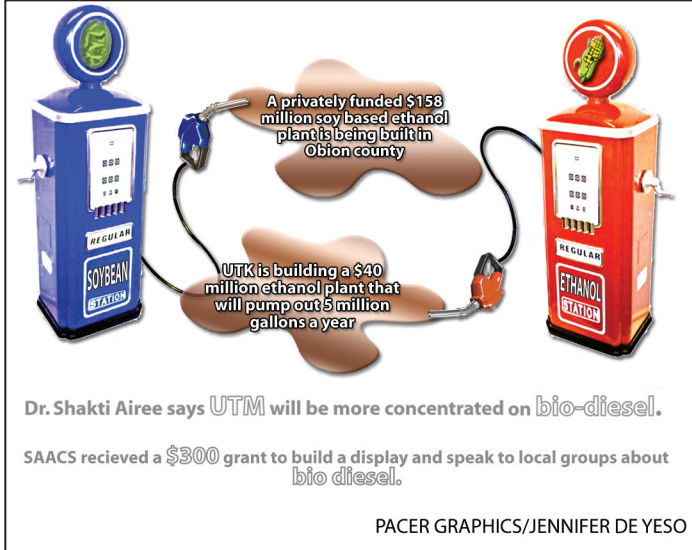
Dr. Shakti Airee said on Monday that despite hefty state subsidies for ethanol experimentation, biodiesel—made from soybean or corn oil—offers a more stable long-term alternative to gasoline.

"Ethanol still requires you to burn gasoline, but you can run 100 percent biodiesel with no problem," Airee said. "You can burn pure ethanol, but it's not desirable because engine parts will deteriorate faster."

Airee has been extolling the benefits of all non-petroleum-based fuels for decades, but his gospel often fell on uninterested ears.

"We've been saying these things for several years. This (focus on alternative energy) is finally coming," said Airee, who teaches a "green" chemistry course and is the faculty adviser to UTM's Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society. "It's about time."

He said he began teaching students about environmentally friendly fuel



sources in the late 1970s during an energy crisis driven by the Iranian Revolution.

The University of Tennessee at Knoxville is building a \$40 million pilot ethanol refinery that pumps out 5 million gallons a year through state grants and a partnership with Cambridge, Mass.-based Mascoma Corp.

Gov. Phil Bredesen has said switchgrass, not corn, will help make Tennessee an alternative energy leader.

Corn is currently the more common source of fuel-grade ethanol but is only a "temporary fix" to the nation's energy problems, Bredesen said. Switchgrass-derived ethanol—called cellulosic ethanol because

it gets its energy from cellulose—offers more economic and environmental benefits.

But Airee said that UT Martin's efforts will be more concentrated on biodiesel, especially considering the wide availability of soybeans in the area, a crop important enough to inspire a Soybean Festival in Martin every fall.

"We have the farmers here," Airee said. "You're using a renewable resource. You don't run out of this, and it brings more money to the farmers."

Bredesen set aside \$73 million in this year's budget for alternative energy technologies, and the state has granted more than \$3 million in low-interest loans to subsidize extract-

ing soy oil from soybean oil for the purpose of making biodiesel.

A privately funded \$158 million soy-based ethanol refinery is slated to open in Obion County—about 10 miles west of Martin—in April 2008.

But Mount Arlington, N.J.-based GreenShift Corp. has announced plans to build a biodiesel refinery in nearby Humboldt.

Soy biodiesel may be initially more expensive to produce, but Airee said governments should help spur green energy growth through subsidies and legislation.

"Once people make up their minds to do this (biodiesel), people will find out better ways to use it," Airee said. "Right now, it's just not a priority. If the Legislature starts requiring using it, people will use it."

Airee said citizens should push to make all buses powered by biodiesel.

Unlike some alternative fuels, biodiesel can run without modification in standard diesel engines.

He said requiring at least 20 percent of diesel to be made from renewable sources—which doesn't emit toxic fumes like sulfur—is a good start. SAACS may draft a petition to send to the General Assembly,

Airee said.

Airee and his student group have been honored repeatedly for their foresight in bringing biodiesel to the forefront of public discussion.

The group recently received a \$300 grant to build a display and speak to area civic groups about biodiesel and renewable energy.

SAACS also sponsors an annual high school science bowl, a Boy Scouts chemistry merit badge clinic, green chemistry conferences with area colleges and more.

UTM's SAACS chapter has been recognized by the American Chemical Society several times for their green efforts and is ranked as one of the top chapters in the country.

SAACS advocates more than just soy-based biodiesel fuel, Airee said.

The group recently presented a paper about a biodiesel-derived polymer—polylactic acid—to the Tennessee Science Teachers Association.

Polylactic acid, used to make plastics, is nontoxic, recyclable and biodegradable.

Airee said the group is also researching supercritical carbon dioxide, a nontoxic alternative to dry cleaning solvents.

Spring '08: benefits from athletics fee to continue

Loretta McDonald

The recently passed \$50-per-semester athletics fee increase brings more than \$70,000 per year, and new lighting for the baseball, softball and soccer fields is among the top-dollar expenditures.

Lighting projects for the baseball, softball and soccer fields will cost nearly \$500,000 and are expected to be installed by spring 2009.

The fee will also go towards a new building for locker rooms and offices for the baseball and softball teams, moving them out of the Skyhawk Fieldhouse. Bleachers will be replaced with permanent seating as

well, sports spokesman Joe Lofaro said.

The athletic activity fee, which passed in the spring, increased the fee from \$104 per semester to \$154.

The increase was touted to generate better operating budgets for facilities, recruiting and team travel.

This money was in no way intended to go towards scholarships for players, Lofaro said.

The money would also go towards hiring staff, creating undergraduate internships for all academic disciplines and facility improvements. All these changes were intended to create a more level playing field between UT Martin and other Ohio Valley

Conference members. The university had one of the lowest athletic funding budgets in the conference last year, officials said.

According to head baseball coach Bubba Cates, "The new upgrades would make us similar to schools we compete against now."

The proposal passed with 68 percent of those who voted in favor, and all athletes were highly encouraged to vote during the spring election, which also included voting for the SGA Executive Council and Senate.

The increase was not meant to aid sports such as football and basketball, since they are revenue-generating sports, Lofaro

said.

Instead, a majority of the newly raised money went towards sports such as volleyball, softball, baseball and soccer.

Improvements in the making include seating, lights and hiring more staff.

Athletics director Phil Dane is excited about the changes.

"We are confident these improvements will result in greater success on the field which will make (students) prouder alumni," Dane said.

Four new positions, including assistant baseball coach, assistant softball coach, assistant rodeo coach and assistant athlet-

ic communications director, were funded by the increase.

Donley Canary, head softball coach, sees the improvement as beneficial.

"The biggest thing is it allows us to have continuity in the program," Canary said.

Dane first proposed the increase in an effort to benefit the areas that needed help the most. This increase will allow UT Martin to be more competitive, particularly in the areas who don't generate revenue for the school. The focus of the fee was to make improvements that would be beneficial to the students and be realistic to ask of them.

TUESDAYWEATHER

54  37

Tomorrow, partly cloudy with a high of 52.
Thursday, expect cloudy skies with a low of 38.

INSIDE

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REDUSE, REUSE...

4 UTM's Recycling Club held its first event Dec. 1

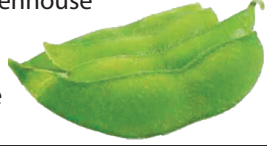
HO, HO, HO TO HELP LOCALS

5 Santa's Village donations go to local charity

JUSTBECAUSE



Compared with fossil fuels, ethanol reduces greenhouse gas emissions 12% while biodiesel reduces greenhouse gas emissions 41%.



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Our View

Editorial:
Film Fest judges lacked expertise

The UTM Film Festival is something *The Pacer* looks forward to every year. It is always exciting to see the creative work of students and it is always entertaining. This year was no different, but we feel that a greater service could have been done to the students by selecting judges

entries in the aforementioned areas of evaluation. Some of the student directors may have aspirations for film school or a career in the film industry. SAC has a responsibility to select judges who will evaluate the films in the same way they would be evaluated in the real world. This will also encourage students to raise the standards by which they judge films.

A better standard to judge the entries is quality

This is not to say that the winners do not deserve their awards, as nearly all of the entries were quite good, rather the winners did not comprise a representative sample of the quality of films entered.

Had the standard for winning been comedic effect, they would be, but *The Pacer* feels that a better standard by which to judge the entries is quality as comprised by cinematography, screenwriting, acting, directing, production quality and editing.

The winners (and other entries) were quite funny and amusing, but were not necessarily at the same level of quality as other

That being said, we applaud SAC for having a film festival in the first place. Anything that inspires or encourages students to make something creative and thus add to the cultural wealth of UTM is a plus. Being located in rural West Tenn. is often a detriment to the cultural experience of UTM students, but events like the film festival help close the gap between UTM and other larger schools.

The Pacer would also like to encourage more students to participate in the film festival. Filmmaking is an exciting and rewarding process.

THE PACER

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The Pacer invites student organizations to submit press releases at least two weeks ahead of an event. We cannot guarantee the publication of any submitted letter, release or news story.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Story ideas or news tips may be e-mailed to pacer@utm.edu or presented at our weekly staff meetings, held at 4:15 p.m. every Tuesday during the semester. If you are unable to attend these meetings, please contact the Executive Editor to arrange a separate meeting.

The Pacer welcomes comments, criticisms or ideas that its readership may have. We encourage you to send a Letter to the Editor at 314 Gooch Hall, Martin, TN 38238, through e-mail at pacer@utm.edu or via our Web site at http://www.utmpacer.com/lettertotheeditor/. Letters to the Editor should be no longer than 250 words. Letters must contain the name, major and hometown of the author, as well as contact information. Submissions may be edited for grammar, spelling and brevity. Publication preference will be given to letters of less than 250 words.

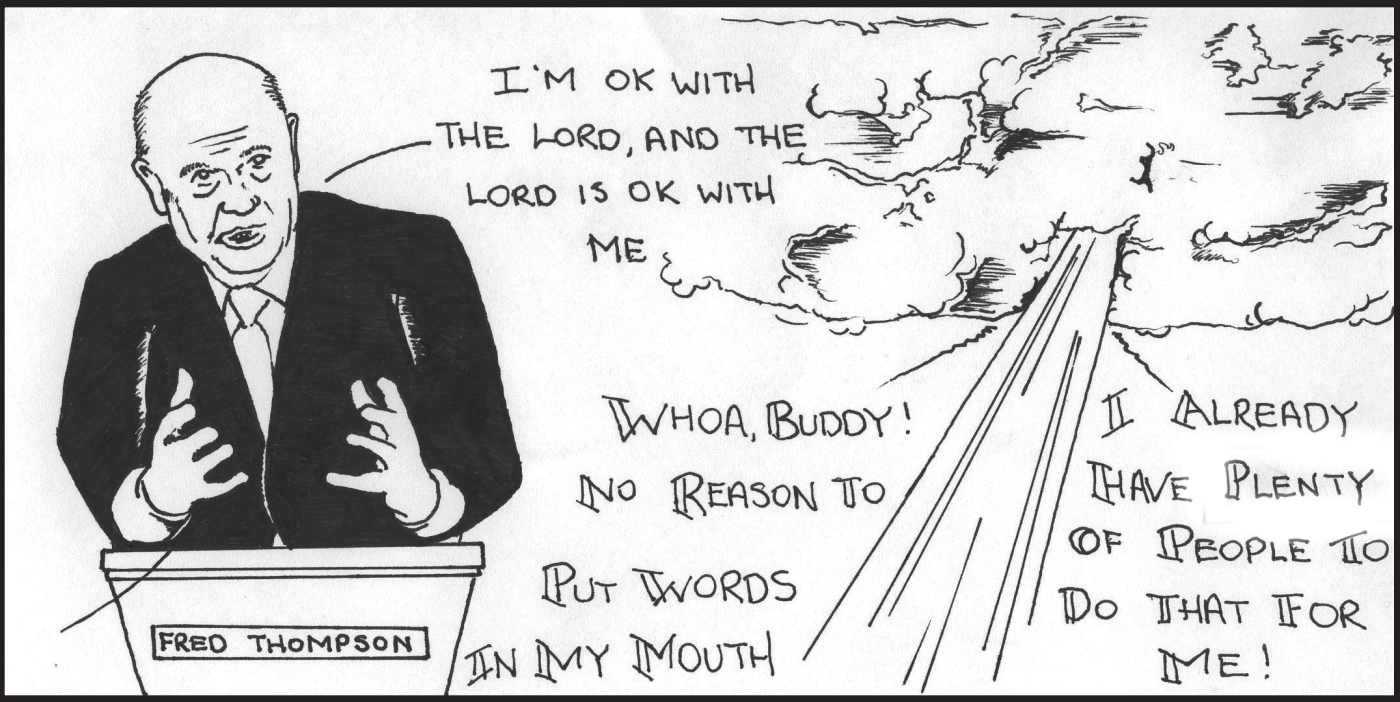
Columns or Guest Commentaries should be no longer than 750 words and will require a photo of the author. Publication is based on relevance and quality of the issue and publication is subject to the discretion of the Editorial Board

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

This newspaper is printed every Tuesday during the semester. Our press run ranges from 2,000 to 5,000 copies depending on the edition. The University of Tennessee at Martin earmarks \$3.60 per enrolled student to pay for staff salaries and overhead costs of running our office. The cost of printing the newspaper is covered by advertising revenue.

The Pummeling Pen

By: Eric White



Words of wisdom: Live your college life to the fullest

Well, the time has come for this senior to get her diploma and head out into the world.

And it's about time!

For those of you who can relate to my situation, you know that nothing in the world can compare to a college education. For those underclassmen who have yet to experience the things that a college education brings, not to mention all the glorious little bits of life lived outside of the classroom experienced with a much more open mind gained from such, I will present some personal words of wisdom I hope that you will meditate on.

1. Takerisks. Before becoming a Communications major, I was a Nursing major. To make a long story short, it wasn't fun. Why did I come to college? Well, to have fun! To get an education, of course, but to have fun doing it. If you



Rebecca Gray
Copy Editor

aren't happy with your current major, change it. Think about what interests you, even if it's a hobby, and make it your life's work. It took guts to hear criticism from my family and friends about whatever hopes and expectations of theirs was withered, but in the end, I found a major that suited ME, and that is all that matters.

2. Be independent. It's okay to make decisions for yourself and not follow in someone else's shoes. You will be better for it. You should never discount the value of figuring things out on your own, like your life choices and beliefs, being an objective thinker, and

meditating often on your own emotions and ideas about the world. This will allow you to learn from, and for, yourself.

3. Make ample time to spend in leisure. Never try to let work come before play when you're in college. Yep, you heard right. You're only here for a short time, folks. You better have fun.

4. Get lots of sleep. Stress will come to you often if you don't keep up with your school work, and frustration will come to you as quickly if you realized you stayed up all night studying for that test, failed it, and realized your time would have been better spent sleeping.

5. Don't stress about the little things. Say you're going in to take that test that you haven't really studied for. Walk out and say, "I did what I could, I'm leaving it all on the field, the world is not going to

end if I failed it, and I'll do better next time." Feel better? I've taken lots of tests where afterwards all my friends wanted to talk about was how poorly they did. If that's the case, you may want to invest in some ear plugs.

6. Don't be a people pleaser. You will never fully become an adult if you are constantly thinking about what others think of you. Also, you will meet some drama queens when you are in college, always wanting to one-up you in their accomplishments. Trying to one-up those people is stressful. It's important to have a level head and not create drama yourself.

Before I graduate from this amazing university, I must say, I wouldn't trade this experience for the world. I have ABSOLUTELY loved it here, and will never forget those who have been there to help me in the journey.

'I'm out of here': Farewell to you all and to all a good night

Well, kiddos, I'm out of here.

I'm quite sure that there are very few of you out there who even bother to read my many ramblings, or who even know my name. I'm sure those of you who are reading this, if there are any, are like 'Who is this person, and what the hell is she going on about?'

Simple. I am here to say goodbye.

It has been my pleasure --- well, most of the time --- to work for the Pacer for the past three and a half years, and it has been, if nothing else, a wonderful learning experience. It has allowed me to meet so many people, to tell their stories, and to be rewarded with either emails that called into question my own sexuality, or emails of thanks. I enjoyed reading them both.

It has also given me the opportunity to do what I love: write about music. Sure, I've enjoyed writing about all the other stuff



Rachel Moore
Asst. A & E Editor

too, but music journalism has always been my passion, and to be able to actually achieve that has been the greatest thing UTM has offered me.

Now, with that over with, I'm going to step out on a limb here and follow tradition. In past farewell columns, staff members have often thanked people who have helped them along the way. I thought I wouldn't do this. After all, the people that deserve the most thanks I thank nearly every day. But there is one person who needs to be thanked here.

Professor Tomi Parrish is the heart and soul of this newspaper. We the staff are the lifeblood that runs it, but without her, none of

us would be here. She has given us all the opportunity to work on our craft and make it stronger. She never judges, but is always willing to lend a hand, or point us in the right direction if she doesn't know the answer.

But Ms. Tomi, as she is known to everyone in the Communications department, is more than just an advisor and professor, she is also a mentor. I cannot count how many times I have come into her office in near tears over any number of things. She would offer my a chair, some Reese's Cups and an ear. No matter how distraught or upset I was, she would always sit and talk to me until I had calmed down. She bakes us cookies on special occasions, and even cat-sits for some of us who are trying to figure out what to do with a small kitten found abandoned behind a trash bin.

To her, I owe more thanks

than I could ever give. She is the one who gave me the opportunity to write about music and all the other fun stuff I've had the chance to scribble about. She helped me out some many times when I screwed up or was ready to throw in the towel. So thank you, Ms. Tomi.

Well, now that the sappy part is over with, I guess that's it! I'm not one for leaving advice for others to follow. Go your own way, as Stevie Nicks once said. Do your own thing, follow your heart and all that jazz. Enjoy life at college. It's been some of the best years of my life, and I am saddened that I'll be leaving it all behind in just a few short weeks. But it's been a fun ride, and I regret nothing.

Okay, I'm done, finis. The curtain is falling and I am planning on making one hell of an exit.

You may now return to your regularly scheduled program.

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In the Counselor’s Corner: Let’s Be Grateful for Our Hassles

This is the time of year when it is easy to whine. We have too much to do, we have to get our holiday shopping done, we don’t have enough money, we have to go visit dozens of relatives, we need to write a 20-page paper by tomorrow... Maybe your friends aren’t being nice to you, perhaps your Thanksgiving was marred by an overdone turkey, and Grandma is most likely going to get you an ugly pair of pajamas again this year. Why shouldn’t we whine?

Well, in fact we are doing pretty darn well. You may have seen several different versions of the internet article entitled “If The World Were a Village of 100 People.” The one from Family Care Foundation (www.familycare.org) states, “If we could reduce the world’s population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all existing human ratios remaining the same... 80 people would live in substandard housing, 67 would be unable to read, 50 would be malnourished and 1 dying of starvation, 33 would be without access to a safe water supply, 39 would lack...improved sanitation, 24 would not have any electricity, 7 people would have access to the internet, one would have a college education, one would have HIV...”

Realizing that only 1% of the world’s population has a college education might put that 20-page assignment into perspective, as would the fact that 67% are illiterate. The overdone



Jennifer Levy-Peck, Ph.D.
Director of Counseling Center

turkey doesn’t seem so critical in a world where 50% of people are not getting enough to eat. Americans today (that’s us, folks) have more and more and yet they feel less and less happy. Recently, I was privileged to hear a talk by Dr. Robert Emmons, editor in chief of the Journal of Positive Psychology and author of the book “Thanks!” Dr. Emmons has done psychological studies on the subject of gratitude. What he has found is that cultivating an attitude of gratitude produces significant improvements in people’s psychological health, resistance to depression, and perception of happiness.

When we are grateful, we are mindful of the positive aspects of our life. Whether in prayer, in meditation, or simply in moments of focused awareness, we stop and appreciate the good things that have been bestowed upon us. The opposite of gratitude is a sense of entitlement. People who feel entitled are focused on themselves and what the world “owes” them. They fail to acknowledge the sacrifices of others on their behalf. They are “takers.” Not too surprisingly, they are seldom truly happy. They tend to be bitter and to feel betrayed on a regular basis. In a seeming para-

dox, those who are most grateful about whatever life gives them see themselves as far richer than others, regardless of their actual level of wealth.

Dr. Emmons makes the very important point that gratitude is a choice. We can practice being aware of the blessings in our life on a daily basis. Here are some simple ways you can increase your personal happiness: (1) keep a daily “gratitude journal” listing 5 things for which you are grateful every day – research has shown this improves people’s moods dramatically; (2) express your gratitude on a regular basis, especially to those people whom you may have taken for granted (such as parents or partners); (3) make a pact with yourself to express more positive sentiments than negative ones – comment on the efficient store clerk to the manager, instead of just complaining about the slow one; (4) try to give of yourself, instead of giving gifts based on monetary value; (5) express your generosity to those in need in your community out of gratefulness for all you have.

Share your time, your resources, your education, your skills, and your compassion. You will receive far more than you give. No one really enjoys hanging around with a whiner, anyway. We’re a lot more fun when we are grateful for what we have and looking for ways to share our bounty.

Gain knowledge, common sense with help from a mentor

As I am going through the last week of a strenuous marathon-training program, it comes to mind that I could not have gone so far without my mentor: Lynn Patterson. This is for you, and also for all those people we consider to be mentors, but who, quite often, we forget to thank.

For the students who will soon be graduating, I wish you have had the chance to find a mentor here. Many, however, go through a whole academic career without ever establishing this so meaningful and fundamental connection. But there is still hope, for mentors are to be found everywhere, not only on university campuses. So, if you didn’t find your mentor at UTM, just keep looking.

Finding a mentor is not an easy task. In a way, it can be compared to a rare astronomical event. And, like any extraordinary astronomical event, most of us are doomed to miss it if we are not at the right place at the right time. The beauty of such a complex equation lies simply on getting the mentor and mentored aligned. The results of this collaboration go far beyond report cards and other measurable achievements.

But what exactly is a mentor? A mentor is not necessarily your academic adviser. It is neither your best friend, nor your personal cheering squad. If you go all the way back to the Greeks and the Odyssey (yes, you have to read the Odyssey at some



Lucia Florido
Guest Columnist

point in life) you will find a guy named Mentor. Mentor raised Telemachus, son of the beautiful Penelope and the cunning Ulysses. While Odysseus was away in his epic, never-ending journeys, Mentor was the boy’s father-figure, his teacher and his protector. So, I guess we can say that a mentor is, first and foremost, an educator or a life coach, a guide for developing your physical and intellectual abilities. A mentor recognizes your strengths and weaknesses, even when you can’t see them yourself.

A mentor is not going to tell you that you can be a top model or a basketball superstar if you REALLY want to (despite your being short and dumpy). That’s up to your parents. Blame them for changing childhood dreams into full-blown adulthood delusions.

Instead, a mentor can only work with you, with whatever skills you have or whatever potential you are willing to explore. A mentor will answer your questions because he has been there before. He does not know it all, but he knows more than you. She will protect you from mistakes you might make and, most importantly, she will protect you from yourself because your biggest

fight is often be against that nagging voice inside your head that never ceases to repeat, “You can’t, you can’t, you can’t.”

Finally, a mentor will teach you some common sense:

1. If something is poorly done, don’t keep trying to add glitter in order to make it better. All you will end up with is a shiny piece of crap.
2. If you really want something, work hard—every day for hours and hours if need be. The most important achievements in life are incompatible with cramming.
3. You cannot control situations outside the boundaries of your physical self. If it rains, it is not just to make you miserable.
4. Don’t lie to yourself and don’t expect others to accomplish your goals for you. When it comes time to deliver, either you are ready or you are not. If you are not, be assured, it will show.
5. Life is mostly hard for most people in most places. You will get hurt, sick, you might fall and even die. But if you’re not dead, you are still running. The race is not over until it is over, so don’t allow yourself to become road kill.

Now it is your turn. Go find a mentor or show some appreciation to the one you have.



Technophile...w00t

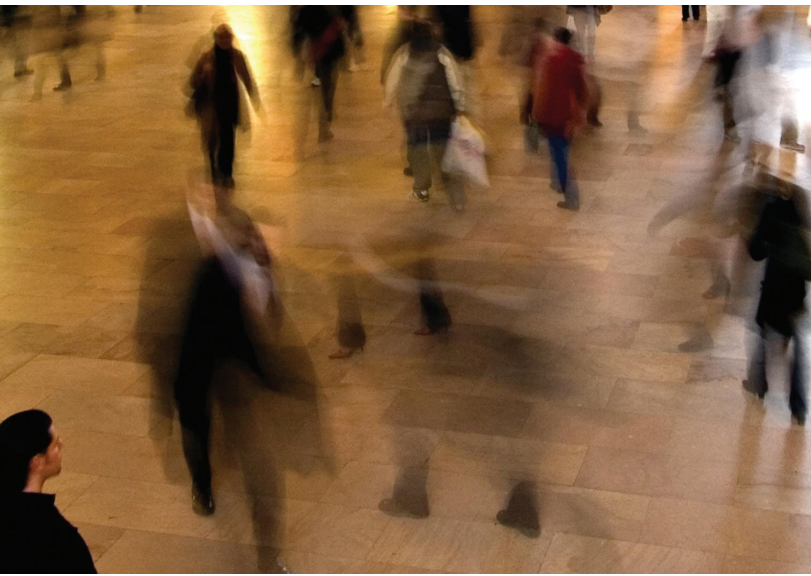


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Club teaches students, community the importance of recycling

T'Challa Pollard
Pacer Writer

Cars loaded with aluminum, plastic, cardboard and paper lined up in the UTM football parking lot Saturday morning to participate in UTM's Recycling Club's first event.

The Recycling Club partnered with the American Democracy Project, Saturday Morning Cleanup Crew, Second Nature, Tri-Beta, SAACS (Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society), Go Green, Sodexho UTM Physical Plant, Omega Psi Phi fraternity Inc. and over 40 student volunteers hosted the event in order to educate the community and campus on what to recycle and how to recycle.

English professor Heidi Huse said, "I hope this event makes people aware of the necessity of recycling and leads to this event becoming a monthly thing," said English professor Heidi Huse.

"The event was a great success for the first one of its kind," said Sarah Hol-



liday.

Dennis Kosta, who is over the recycle barn on campus, hopes that the event will inform students about the recycling program at UTM.

"UTM has had the capability to recycle since 1990

and would like to see the community and students use the facility more often," said Kosta.

Kosta wants the community to know that the recycle barn is not just for the campus but for the entire

community. He also said that he would like to see the students of UTM lead West Tennessee in recycling.

Unlike other states, Tennessee has no recycling requirements or laws.

"I would like to see this



PHOTOS: SARAH HOLLIDAY/The Pacer

what and how to recycle.

Danielle Henley freshmen biology major said, "It was fun and a good way to gain community service hours," said Danielle Henley, freshmen biology major.

happen more often because

Tennessee is so far behind on recycling," said graduate student Natasha Dalton.

The student volunteers and the local boy scouts came out and helped in separating and educating on

BSA, NAACP support minority students

Melissa Kimble
Pacer Writer

When getting involved on campus, many students look for something to be a part of, whether it is academically or socially. Organizations provide a support system for students with the same interests. Student organizations such as the Black Student Organization and the collegiate chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People hold true to that support system.

The Black Student Organization serves to provide an atmosphere of support and serve as a representative body on issues and concerns affecting black students on campus.

"These organizations are important because they keep a spotlight on minority issues and provide a venue for African-American students to express their views and advocate for their rights and opin-

ions," said Teresa Woody, adviser for the UTM chapters of BSA and NAACP.

Greek and non-greek organizations such as BSA, the NAACP, and National Pan-Hellenic Council all meet to serve the needs for not only just black students, but for all students to find comfort and support during their college experience.

"We represent the African Americans on campus. If organizations such as BSA and NPHC as well as greek organizations do not exist on campus, our voices will not be heard," said Kimberly Bailey, president of UTM's NPHC and the Delta Sigma Theta sorority.

Organizations on other campuses, like those at UT Chattanooga, seem to agree and fulfill their purpose of strengthening minority ties on campuses.

"We try to do as many programs as possible together to promote unity on our campus so that people don't look at us as high-

class gangs," says Reginald Floyd Smith II, president of UTC's NPHC.

For years, minority organizations such as BSA and the recently renewed collegiate chapter have been positive presences on campus. The campus BSA/NAACP and the Office of Minority Affairs were instrumental in funding and hosting the visit by Julian Bond to the campus during the Civil Rights Conference this year and will also be instrumental in helping with next year's Civil Rights Conference.

The organization has elected officers for next year and has committed funds to attend the NAACP State Conference in 2008. They have worked along with greek organizations on some of their activities and their weeks, had an event centered on the Jena 6 case and had members represented in the Homecoming Courts.

SGA Pres. sums up accomplishments

Will York
Senior Reporter

Halfway through her term as student body president, Erin Chambers said on Monday that her administration has "made a difference to the students."

Chambers presided over the last Student Government Association Senate meeting of the semester on Thursday, which lasted less than an hour and saw no new legislation.

"My administration has been criticized for not having as much legislation," Chambers said. "But it's all had an impact. It's not something to write down on paper just to say we've passed legislation."

Among the five pieces

of legislation Chambers signed this semester is a bill that gives one vote in the Senate to the Freshman Council president.

The council generally had no legislative powers until the Senate vote.

Freshman Council members are not elected but are selected by the Senate.

"Past administrations have talked about it, even back when I was in Freshman Council, and it's something we weren't given a chance to have," Chambers said. "One vote does count, so that legislation is huge."

Another resolution discourages defacing student organizations' fliers and posters.

Chambers said several

groups have thanked SGA for taking a stand against property destruction.

The Senate also passed a bill that corrects grammar errors in the SGA Constitution, another that contributes \$1,500 toward a pair of bronze statues on the Quad and one that changes the dates of Homecoming elections.

"Whatever we say we're going to get done, we get done," Chambers said. "That's an indication to the way I'm trying to run things here."

Chambers said she's brought a wall with portraits of past SGA presidents up to date and worked to establish a student

— See 'SGA on Page 5

History prof. discusses life, history

T'Chella Pollard
Pacer Writer

David Coffey is the chair and associate professor in UTM's History Department, but he also serves as one of the interim deans of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. He teaches courses in United States, Latin-American and military history, but his field of expertise is the U.S. Civil War era.

Coffey has written three books, contributed to four others and co-edited two award-winning multi-volume encyclopedias. This is his seventh year at UT Martin.

The Pacer: What made you choose a career in history? And is this what you always wanted to do?

Coffey: I've always enjoyed history, dating back to my earliest memories, but I kind of fell into it as a career later in life. This is, really, a second career for me, having spent some 15 years in the business world before returning to school and earning a doctorate at TCU. I always wanted to be a rock star or a race car driver, but I lacked the talent, money and opportunity.

What type of impact do you hope that your career has on students?

I think any teacher wants his or her students to leave class inspired, and I hope I get that sometimes, but I truly want my students to come away with an appreciation of history. I also try at least to cultivate more engaged and aware citizens. I



talk a lot about passion. It would be wonderful to see more of that.

As a history professor, what things in UTM's history program are you glad to see change and what things do you wish to see change?

Well, as chair, I've been quite pleased to see huge growth in the program, in terms of majors, additional faculty, and in off-campus and online instruction. I particularly like working in a multi-faceted department—we have three majors—with a diverse and talented faculty. What I'd like to see change? Three things mostly, a major curriculum overhaul, which will allow us to serve students more effectively. I'd like to have a

STACIE SIMMONS/The Pacer

minor in secondary education licensure, so our majors can graduate with the certification necessary to teach. And, always, we need more faculty, so we can expand our history, philosophy, and international studies programs and add a major in religious studies at some point. The faculty across campus is simply stretched too thin. We must attract and retain excellent faculty.

Do you believe that history repeats itself?

History doesn't repeat itself. We fail to learn history's lessons, so we repeat mistakes. Military and political leaders have

— See 'Coffey' on Page 5

New fecal drug stinks, officials say

Jennifer Swegles
Pacer Writer

A surprisingly low-tech drug is making quite a stench for area police.

Created from fermented human feces and urine, Jenkem is becoming more common in poor parts of the rural South, according to a briefing from the Collier County Sheriff's Office in Naples, Fla.

Law enforcement officials as near as Jackson, Tenn.—about an hour from Martin—were also informed of the new hallucinogenic drug, which has been popular in Africa since the late 1980s.

Jenkem is made by placing feces and urine in a bottle in the sun and covering it with a balloon. Users inhale the contents of the balloon sending them into a hallucinogenic high

that leaves an aftertaste for around three days.

The euphoric high is similar to that of cocaine, and some users report talking to the dead.

Bloggers on the Internet have suggested the notion of the drug to be a hoax, but Jackson law enforcement seems to believe otherwise.

"We've never run into anyone who admits to using the drug, and we hope we never do, said Sgt. Mike Thomas. "I've never been officially briefed on this drug, but we like to make sure we are in the know when it comes to new drugs."

Metro Narcotics investigator Jackie Benton said, "We like to keep updated on these new types of drugs and there street names. (A Web site) helps us stay up to date. For example, recently there has been a problem

with a combination of Tylenol PM and Heroin called 'cheese.' We'd really have no idea what it was comprised of were it not for this Web site."

Benton said Jackson police haven't made any Jenkem arrests, but they'll "be able to handle it when we come across it by staying informed," she said.

Some residents have suggested area Jenkem users have used cow feces in their concoctions.

"We live in an agricultural area, so these kids will hover in cow pastures and actually wait for fresh manure," Benton said. "Then they put this manure in a bottle, covered with a balloon in the sun. It's very important that they have it in the heat so that the fumes will come off better."

Lottery scholarship to be reworked

Staff Reports

Gov. Phil Bredesen requested in a recent budget hearing that the criteria for the lottery scholarship be reworked to account for students with lower grade point averages but more financial need.

The request has not been placed in the form of a concrete proposal yet, but Bredesen stated, "I'd like to see some way of using the money more efficiently, for the students who are really not going to go to college otherwise."

According to executive director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, Rich Rhoda, the original goal of the lottery scholarship was to motivate high school students to achieve more, but Bredesen "would bet you it

doesn't much."

The scholarship is currently available to all Tennessee high school students—without consideration to financial status—who obtain at a minimum of a 3.0 GPA and a 21 ACT score. Bredesen asked that the state create a merit scholarship with higher GPA requirements, as well as giving regard to the students with lower GPAs and more financial need. "If you have a 3.2 and your parents are wealthy or well off, maybe use some of that money for the 2.8 whose parents are not wealthy and can't send them to college instead," Bredesen explained.

The questions on acceptance policy for the scholarship, however, does not address the large number of students who relin-

quish the scholarship after reaching college because of failure to meet requirements, nor does it address the factor of the decrease in out-of-state students at state universities, such as UT Knoxville.

"That's an issue of being willing to ride with problems in college a little longer, which I absolutely believe in," Bredesen said.

Bredesen also commented that those with better financial statuses have the ability to stay in school with the loss of the scholarship, while those with less affluent backgrounds are forced out of school, which according to Bredesen is not "necessarily right."

The examination of the lottery scholarship standards is one of several

— See 'Lottery' on Page 5

Three arrested in pizza delivery robbery

Three people have been arrested in the case of a pizza deliveryman who was robbed earlier this month, police said.

Campus police worked with the Martin Police Department to make the arrests Nov. 26.

Deavery Russell, 18, and two minors were arrested and charged with robbery.

Russell was not a UTM student, records show.

The Pacer generally does not identify minors arrested for crimes.

“During the investigation, information was gathered about some incidents in Martin, and as a result of that information, information about this robbery became available, and

that’s how we got them,” Capt. Ray Coleman said.

Coleman credited Lt. Darrell Simmons with making the arrest.

The student deliveryman said three bandana-clad men made away with a pizza, his cell phone, wallet and \$20 in cash after they robbed him.

Santa’s Village will be Santa’s helper

T’Challa Pollard
Pacer Writer

Those attending Santa’s Village this year will be helping underprivileged children have a very ‘beary’ Christmas.

Santa’s Village will be hosted in UTM’s Agriculture Pavilion, December 6-9. The event will provide 20 hours of continuous entertainment during the 23rd annual event to help service agencies such as Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council, Obion County American Red Cross, We Care Ministries, Santa’s Helpers and Chimes for

Charity.

This year’s teddy bear-inspired “Very Beary Christmas” is scheduled for 6-9 p.m., December 6-7; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., December 8; and 1-5 p.m., December 9. Opening ceremony is set for 5:45 p.m., December 6. Admission is a suggested donation of \$5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

Reba Wade, of Reba Wade Music Studio in Martin, has volunteered as entertainment coordinator of Santa’s Village for 19 of the 23 years it has been going on. Finalists from the Memphis Mid-South Youth Talent Show and

the Kentucky Opry Talent Contest, as well as winners of the Soybean Festival Talent Show and the Dresden Iris Festival Talent Show are among the entertainers to be featured this year. Also appearing will be youth and adults playing guitars, violins, accordions, trumpets, saxophones and piano. The Memory Makers, with members from Martin, Union City, Bradford and Fulton and Mayfield, Ky., will provide big-band era music.

“We all enjoy doing this,” said Wade. “It is something we feel we can share to help people.”

Coffey: Continued from page 4

to learn from past mistakes, so they repeat errors, perhaps thinking they are the one who will prevail. The present tragedy in Iraq is a perfect example. We get real change when a leader learns from history and breaks the pattern.

If you could change one thing in American history what would it be?

This is a great question with hundreds of possibilities. It could be something as broad as never allowing slavery to take hold or finding a way to work with rather than try to destroy the Indians. Or you could look at what might have happened if Lincoln hadn’t been killed, or had Dr. King or Malcolm X lived a few more years. There are some stirring possibilities. For a

more contemporary idea, I like to think of what might have happened had we avoided the Vietnam conflict. Perhaps the various social movements and the Great Society could have blossomed into something truly revolutionary.

If you could portray any historical figure of any era in a movie who would it be and Why?

I sometimes portray historical figures in class and have received good reviews for my George W. Bush and Bill Clinton impressions. President Lyndon Johnson is a compelling character. I think he would be fun to play. Several of those Roman rulers are tempting, all that sex and violence ... I just don’t know. Maybe Lewis and Clark’s dog, Sea-

man.

Students normally think of their professors almost as not human or not having life outside of teaching, so when you are not busy with school related activities what do you like to do for fun?

For the record, most of my colleagues are in fact humans. I like to work in the yard or on home improvements with my fiancée Julie, another human, and I like to play music with some fellow humans in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. We have a little group—we call it The House Band—that includes Professors Chris Brown, David Carithers, Brent Cox, Jim Fieser. I like to play golf but almost never get the chance.

Deficiencies: Continued from Cover

reading speed and vocabulary development,” said Beverly Hearn, an assistant professor in the Educational Studies Department and Reading Center. “It also includes strategies for comprehension and tries to help students make a two-year gain in the reading area.”

“Reading 100 should generally be taken before classes that require an extensive amount of reading,” Hearn said.

Students with deficiencies in mathematics are placed in developmental courses to remove the deficiencies. Mathematics 070, 080, and 090 are set up to remove deficiencies in Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry respectively. Placement into

these courses is also based on the student’s ACT mathematics score.

English 100 is the most basic English course for students with ACT English scores less than 20.

This class helps students improve in writing and grammar.

If a student wants to improve upon their writing skills, they can go to the Writing Center.

“The Hortense Parrish Writing Center is committed to helping students become better editors and writers,” according to the Writing Center Web site. “Through individualized tutoring, writing workshops, computer workshops, roundtable discus-

sions, basic skills review, Talk Time, and other offerings, the Writing Center serves as an academic support service for UT Martin students.”

The Writing Center offers services to students to avoid plagiarism.

“I think plagiarism is less related to student deficiencies than it is to a larger cultural issue that promotes the values of ease and just getting by rather than asking students to take personal responsibility for their own thinking and writing. Well-prepared students plagiarize too,” said Leslie LaChance, assistant professor in the English Department.

Lottery: Continued from page 4

items on the higher education budget for upcoming legislative sessions, others including the improve-

ment of graduation rates, streamlining of the transfer process between community colleges and four-year

SGA: Continued from page 4

advisory council to University of Tennessee system President John Petersen, which was one of the primary tenets of her campaign in April.

“It started because each of the schools (in the UT system) felt we needed representation, and we’re anticipating it being a really good thing for UT Martin,” Chambers said.

The University Student Council met with Petersen for the first time last month and discussed campus security and environmental measures.

Chambers sits on the council along with student representative Mishonee Hicks, who was appointed by Chambers, student trustee Brittany McGruder and representatives from all the UT campuses.

Chambers and the

Student Voice Party said they’d “continue to draft legislation concerning campus safety issues such as campus lighting and crosswalks ...” during campaigning in the spring, and Chambers said her administration has already taken steps to make the campus safer.

The Campus Observation Committee lobbied to have the crosswalks between the crosswalks between the Martin Place and University Village apartments repainted.

Any other improvements—such as with lighting—are difficult because of “so much red tape,” Chambers said.

She said the issue would have to be hashed out between the university and the City of Martin because the streets are city-owned.

“Of course, there’s more work to be done,” Chambers said. “We are still trying to get the lighting sorted out.”

Chambers said she will spend the winter break thinking of how to better involve international and nontraditional students in campus events, another part of her winning election platform.

She also said the Senate will be involved in the upcoming search for a permanent vice chancellor for Student Affairs and in contract negotiations for a new food service provider.

“I’m really excited about what we’ve done this semester,” Chambers said. “More people are coming to the meetings and we’re fired up for next semester.”

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*Senior includes pets 7 years or older




Douglas G. Hooks, D.V.M

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Police Report

The information contained in this report is taken directly from public records distributed by the UTM Department of Public Safety. DPS can be contacted by calling (731) 881-7777.

11/26/07 at 11:52 am University Street - Ricky L Wilson was issued a citation for speeding (Martin City Court)	Assist. An officer responded and the subject was transported to the hospital.
11/26/07 at 2:16 pm Lot 1 - There was vandalism reported to a vehicle. The investigation continues.	11/29/07 at 9:50 pm Martin Place - There was an assist with another agency.
11/27/07 at 12:10 am Lot 2 -There was a hit and run reported. The subject reported damage to vehicle.	11/30/07 at 3:26 am University Village B Unit - There was a harassment filed. The subject was referred to Student Affairs.
11/27/07 at 12:18 am Ellington Hall - There was a medical assist. Martin Fire and EMS arrived and transported student to VCH.	12/01/07 at 8:14 pm Ellington Hall - There was a medical assist. EMS and MFD responded and transported the subject to VCH.
11/27/07 at 1:30 pm Lot 19 - There was vandalism to a vehicle. The investigation continues.	12/02/07 at 1:33 am Oxford Street - Kyle H Brooks was issued a alcohol violation and referred to Student Affairs. The subject was put on the First Offender List.
11/28/07 at 11:38 pm Browning Hall - There was a room search but nothing was found.	12/01/07 at 1:57 pm Library - There was a theft of property from the building. The investigation continues.
11/27/07 at 11:42 pm Browning Hall - There was a medical	

Campus Bulletin Board



The Pacer provides this space free of charge to campus clubs and organizations that wish to promote events or offerings. Items to appear in The Pacer’s “Campus Bulletin Board” section must be submitted at least a week ahead of the event, either by e-mail to pacer_news@utm.edu or by dropping off a flier and press release to 314 Gooch Hall. Preference is given by event date closest to printing and by order received. Please note that submission does not necessarily

Pacer Meetings

Want to write for the student newspaper? *Pacer* meetings are every Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. in Gooch 309. Come sign up for a story so that you can see your byline in next week’s issue of the student newspaper.

Cans Across America

Sodexho Dining Services and Interfaith Campus Ministries have teamed up this year to host the 2nd ever “Cans Across America” canned food drive on Wednesday, November 7. We are asking all students, faculty, and

staff to bring in a canned food donation to help those in need in our community. Drop offs can be made in the Skyhawk Dining Hall. All canned foods collected will go to the local charity, “We Care Ministries.”

Workshop Partners Education and Youth Service Providers

The federal and state departments of education are co-hosting a December workshop for organizations seeking to provide educational assistance to economically disadvantaged students in Tennessee. The workshop will be held Tuesday,

December 4 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Nashville. To register, visit <http://www.ed.gov/about/inits/list/fbci/suppserv-workshops.html>. For more information, contact Rachel Woods at (615) 253-1960 or Rachel.Woods@state.tn.us.

Santa’s Village

The event is slated for 6-9 p.m., Dec. 6-7; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 8; and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 9. Opening ceremony is set for 5:45 p.m., Dec. 6. Co-sponsors for the event are Martin Parks and Recreation, the C. E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. Admis-

sion is a suggested donation of \$5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys. It will take place at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Disgruntled Artists Exhibit

Visual Arts Society will be hosting an exhibit. Opening reception will be on November 27, 2007. The exhibit will start on Tuesday, Nov. 27 in the Fine Arts Building

Text Messaging Alert System

The Department of Public Safe-

ty is planning to test the campus Text Messaging Alert System on Friday, December 14 at 12 noon. The title of the message will be TEST and the message will read TEST-TEST-TEST. The recipient will not have to take any action upon receiving the message except insure they got it if they are signed up. Public Safety is requesting anyone giving finals at this time to ask their students to shut off their cell phones prior to the final to prevent any disturbance. For anyone who would like to opt in to the system before the test, go through your Banner account to do so.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

utmpacer.com

David Hampton, A&E Editor • E-mail: pacer_features@utm.edu

Silver Screen Standards

Stoner Style

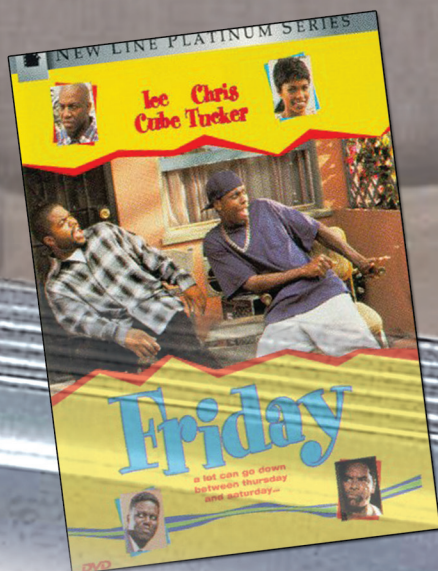
by David Hampton



This seminal stoner film spawned a legacy of cult classics and put comedy duo "Cheech" Marin and Tommy Chong on the subculture map. This is the movie that most of our parents privately watched and laughed at, that our generation wondered about as kids, and that we discovered anew in adolescence. If you haven't seen it, go straight to rent this movie.



Before the advent of "Chappelle's Show," Dave Chappelle, Jim Brewer, Guillermo Diaz and Harland Williams teamed up for this hazy comic classic. In order to bail their comrade out of jail, the crew sets out on an entrepreneurship that leads them through an odyssey of smoking culture. Their trippy adventure includes a classic cataloging of the spectrum of smokers and hysterical portrayals of stereotypical stoners, along with many more side-splitting scenarios along the way.



An exemplary mid-'90s cannabis comedy, "Friday" features Ice Cube, Chris Tucker and an unforgettable opening dialogue that candidly proclaims that it's Friday and our plans are made. This film still stands as a devastatingly funny adventure full of memorable characters, hilarious situations and a cast full of now familiar faces. When you need an escape at the end of the week, this grass-laden gem is sure to deliver.



This turn-of-the-century creation carried the stoner dynasty into a new generation, while demonstrating how an inspired appetite can lead to a once in a lifetime adventure. Harold and Kumar, played by John Cho and Kal Penn, think that their outing to the famous purveyor of mini-burgers will be a short trip, but their plans go awry and take them, along with the audience, on an unforgettable epic voyage.



PACER GRAPHICS/JENNIFER DE YESO

'A Retrospective of Jorge Leal's Artwork' to debut this week

David Hampton
A&E Editor

The product of seven years of creativity and dedication from one of UT Martin's own will debut this week in Union City. The work of Jorge Leal, a UTM senior, will be displayed at the Obion County Public Library, with the opening reception taking place tonight at 5 p.m.

"I truly hope to inspire people with my work and get them more involved in the art world so that they can have a better understanding and appreciation of art in general," said Leal.

"A Retrospective of Jorge Leal's Artwork," which will run through January 4, will consist of about 40 pieces that represent the artist's best work from 2000-07, and will include works spanning Leal's high school years up to recent creations.

Leal, a senior French major with a minor in Art, said that he first got serious about art while attending

high school, and began creating his own works when he was around 15 years old.

"It was there that I began to have a better understanding of what art really is," Leal said. "From those experiences and through my college art studies at UTM, my work has improved and evolved very much."

Leal said that with an exhibit spanning seven years of work, he hopes that people will see the "improvisation and evolution" of his creations.

"With this art exhibit that covers such a large time span, I want people to see that my work is not something that came from nothing," he said.

He also said that this exhibit will reveal how his work has improved through the years.

"I want people to see that anybody can do what I do," he said. "I think people just have to be dedicated and be exposed to the right aesthetic experiences, in order to develop their talent."

Leal said that oil paint is his favorite medium to work with because of the many effects he can achieve through its use. He also uses acrylic paint, pastels and ink, along with construction paper and newspaper to create two-dimensional pieces.

When asked about his inspiration, Leal said that many of his past experiences and teachers influence his work, mentioning his high school art teacher along with UTM instructors Diane Shaw, Kristine Buchanan and Carol Eckert.

The horizons of his influences, however, are broader than that.

"I think my culture has greatly influenced my work as well," said Leal, a native of Mexico who spent the first 12 years of his life there.

In terms of style, Leal says in his artist statement, "I do not have a defined style because my work evolves and grows from my aesthetic experiences." He concludes

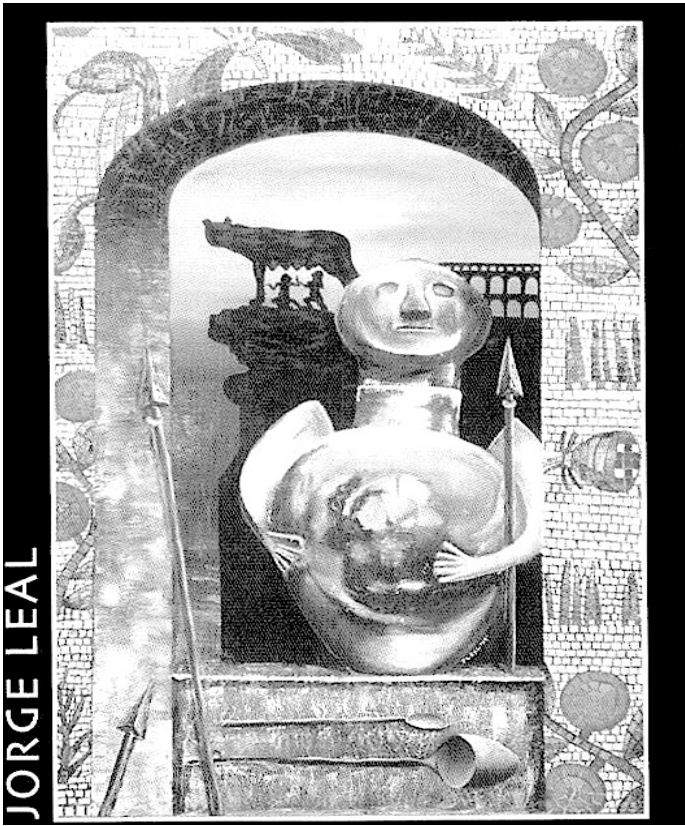
his statement with "Today my work is somewhat abstract but yet realistic. Who knows what I will paint tomorrow."

In 2002, Leal attended the Missouri Fine Arts Academy, which was held at Southwest Missouri State in Springfield, Mo. According to the MFAA Web site, the program was created to provide "an opportunity and level of support necessary to challenge, motivate, and empower Missouri's most talented arts students to become future state arts leaders."

After this month's graduation ceremony at UTM, Leal plans to take a break from the academic world to decide where to go with his future, mentioning the possibility of continuing his studies next year.

He does plan on continuing his life as an artist, though.

"I'm not sure if I want to create art to make a living," he said, "but I do know that I want to continue painting until I die."



JORGE LEAL

Go see "A Retrospective of Jorge Leal's Artwork"

Dec. 4 – Jan. 4
Obion County Public Library
1221 East Reelfoot Ave.
Union City

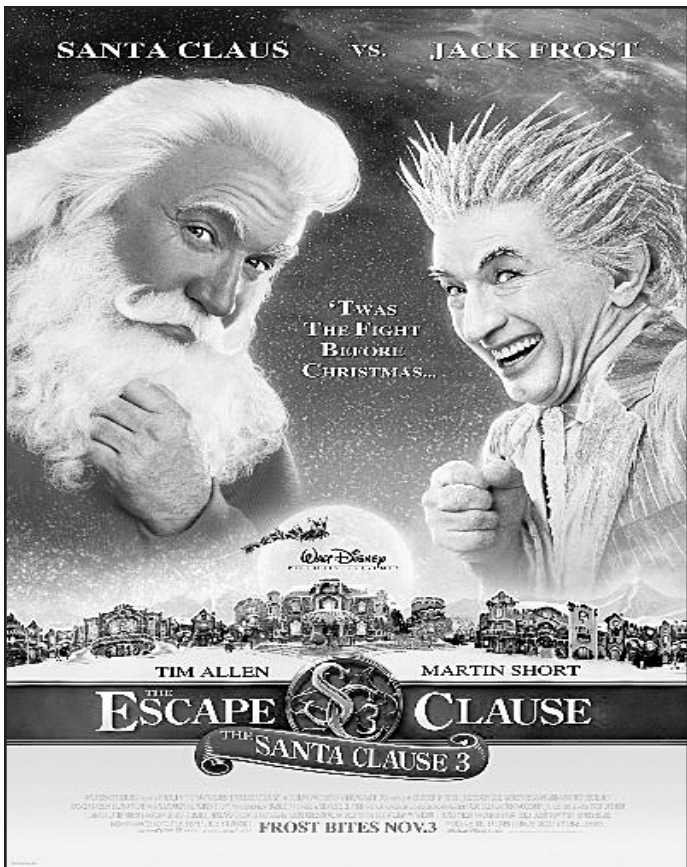
SAC showcasing 'Santa Clause 3'

Kaylin Bishop
Pacer Writer

Imagine a Christmas without Santa Clause. That's what happens in Disney's third installment of the Santa Clause series, "Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause," released on DVD on November 20.

Scott Calvin (Tim Allen) is having a hard time keeping up with his family and his demanding job as Santa. To help ease the pain, Calvin invites his in-laws and his ex-wife's family to the North Pole. Because his in-laws (Ann-Margret and Academy Award winner Alan Arkin) think their new son-in-law is just a toy-maker, not Santa Clause, the Calvins must disguise the North Pole as Canada.

Things don't go quite as planned, though, when the evil Jack Frost (Martin Short) has a meeting with the Council of Legendary Figures (which includes the Tooth Fairy, Sandman, Easter Bunny, Cupid, Mother Earth, and Father Time) and decides that he should



get his own holiday. When he gets his way, he turns the North Pole into a giant theme park. Calvin must realize how important spending time with his family is

in order to regain control of the North Pole.

"Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause" will be shown at 7 p.m. in Watkins Auditorium on December 6.

Phi Mu Alpha to host benefit concert Friday

Amanda Rogers
Staff Writer

Phi Mu Alpha Fraternity will be holding a Benefit Concert on Friday, Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m. in Fine Arts Building.

There is no admission cost, but a donation table will be located at the entrance, and donations are encouraged. The proceeds will go to a local high school to help support their music program, according to Eric Goetz, president of Phi Mu Alpha. Last year's proceeds went to Lakeview High

School, and this year they will be sent to South Fulton.

"The fraternity enjoys hosting and participating in events that advance music," he said.

During the benefit concert four to five songs will be performed by the men's choir, which is directed by Dr. Fred Spano.

A few soloists will sing and the men of Phi Mu Alpha will be play a few songs in small ensembles. There will also be a few sing-along songs with the audience. All the music will be Christmas songs.

As the semester's curtain is drawn

David Hampton
A&E Editor

With the semester grinding to a halt and with this being the last issue of *The Pacer* until next year, it seems like a good time to take a deep breath and look back and evaluate all that has taken place over the past few months.

I know it went by fast, but just think about everything that has happened:

Aug. 27 – Attorney General Alberto Gonzales resigns
Aug. 30 – U.S. Air Force flies six nuclear warheads from North Dakota to Louisiana on accident
Sept. 1 – Finland makes the switch from analog to digital TV signals, which the United States will be doing shortly
Sept. 17 – University of Florida student Andrew Meyer shocked with a taser
Sept. 25 – "Halo 3" is released and breaks every kind of entertainment record in history
Sept. 26 – Monks taken into

custody and Internet access eliminated in Burma
Oct. 8 – Marion Jones gives up five gold medals for using drugs
Oct. 12 – Al Gore shares Nobel Peace Prize with United Nations climate change panel
Oct. 15 – Drew Carey replaces Bob Barker as host of "The Price is Right" (Barker is still alive)
Oct. 20 – Wildfires begin to ravage Southern California
Oct. 23 – Space shuttle Discovery launches
Oct. 28 – Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner becomes first-ever female president of Argentina
Nov. 3 – Pakistani President Musharraf declares state of emergency, suspends constitution and shortly afterward arrests every lawyer in sight
Nov. 5 – Writer's Guild of America strike begins
Nov. 6 – Six American casualties in Iraq make 2007 the United States' deadliest year in the country
Nov. 7 – Space shuttle Dis-

covery lands safely
Nov. 20 – Scientists in Wisconsin and Japan figure out how to make embryonic stem cells out of skin cells, with no embryos required
Dec. 3 – Venezuelan voters shoot down a referendum that would have granted Hugo Chavez the possibility of being president as long as he possibly could have

These are just a few highlights of what has taken place while you've been minding your own business and trying to keep up with your classes. You may feel that studying and keeping up with your agenda has distracted you from the workings of the world.

Even if you've kept up with all this, you might feel a little left out.

Just remember, though, it won't be long until it will be us out in the world committing all this greatness and craziness.

And it all happens so fast.

UTM choirs head west during break

Jana Ogg
Pacer Writer

The University Singers and New Pacer Singers are packing up and heading west during Christmas break for the 2008 Tour of the West. This is the third trip in three years the choirs have taken, but this year is the biggest trip yet.

The choirs, led by Director Mark Simmons, will perform five performances in a row on the trip, with the last two days set aside for touring in the Grand Canyon and Las Vegas.

The tour begins in Pasadena, Calif. on Jan. 4, and then continues on in Santa Barbara and Garden Grove Calif., and finishes up in Tempe and Flagstaff in Arizona.

The choirs will perform during the evening service in the famous Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove. The choirs will be performing a total of 14 songs that

evening, many of which were performed at this year's choral concert on campus.

Before the performance, they are hosting a reception for all UT alumni in the California area. Over 2,200 e-mails and invitations have been sent out across the area for the gathering, which will be held in the art gallery on the campus of the Crystal Cathedral. Several faculty and administration will be in attendance, including Vice Chancellor of Development Keith Carver.

"Every tour is one more opportunity to practice," said Simmons. "One of the best things about the tour is what it does for the university. I always ask audiences how many people thought about West Tennessee that day, and aside from the occasional alumni not many people have ever even heard of Martin, much less where

we are or what we do. Our choir is the only connection they have to what we're about. One lady came up to me after a performance and said she knew nothing about Martin besides that is was entirely populated with kind people. That is what it is about."

Simmons is not the only one representing Martin across the country; the 45 students going act as ambassadors for our campus. The students are completely behind this tour financially, as they have been working hard and paying for the opportunity to go.

"Tour is an opportunity for choir students to sing in a variety of venues across the United States in some amazing churches before they graduate," said junior Vocal Education major Kimberly Kraft, who is a member of both ensembles.

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From the Geek Corner

The fall semester's final word on Facebook

Facebook has recently succumbed to the pressures of its users and other groups and nixed their advertising program that many contested due to privacy issues. The pilot program, Beacon, was originally intended to revolutionize the advertising industry by giving marketers information about Facebook users, but unfortunately for Facebook their plan was miscommunicated and deceptive and now the end product is a total waste.

Facebook has always been progressive with their ideas with little regard to their users. Most will remember when they rolled out their news feed which let members know even the most miniscule of actions in Facebook land by other members. Petition started immediately, you might still be a member of one of the groups. The social Web site was quick to respond then addressing issues and allowing users to decide what they see and what they don't. However, even then Facebook still did not yield their ideas to the concerns of its users, many of us are still "Facebook stalkers."

This leads me to wonder what actions Facebook will take concerning Beacon. Will it be trashed all together? Obviously Facebook is mostly concerned with pushing out their own progressive ideas, but when it comes to privacy rights the issue is tainted with bad precedent established



Jon-Michael St. Amant
Technology Columnist

throughout time.

The larger issues here are how users are viewed on social Web sites. As users we are constantly bombarded with ads, placed in flux waiting for the next program, and always wondering if our privacy rights will be upheld. However, in the end we don't worry about it too much. Even if Facebook's Beacon program would have gone through without a hitch many would soon forget how they are being exploited in order to see pictures of friends and who is dating who. In the end, we as users care very little about how we are treated in the online world.

This is obvious by the way we present ourselves on our profiles. More and more reports come out suggesting that people are being denied jobs based on the information on their profiles and still I find people who leave themselves open for the world to see.

Eventually people need to get smart and realize that, although fun, our online presence is more weighted than we would like to realize. Only then will we have any real affect on how we are approached in the digital world.

'Facebook has always been progressive with their ideas with little regard to their users.'



Tripit.com

Michael Deaton
Pacer Writer

Christmas is right around the corner and that means most people will be traveling to visit family over the holiday season and with other holiday activities nobody really has time to sit down and plan out their traveling plans. Well, now you don't have to.

Tripit.com is a wonderful Web site to organize your travel plans and best of all, it's free. All you do is e-mail them with your itinerary and it automatically organizes everything for you. It's stress free and you don't have to do (hardly) a thing.

Another positive thing about Tripit is the fact that it connects with Google maps, NOAA weather, SeatGuru, Wikipedia, Eventful, Flickr, and OpenTable and incorporates these into your schedule so that you have tons of information readily available.

Because of the fact that it works with these other Web sites means that you always have a map at your convenience in case you get lost as well up to date weather information.

SeatGuru allows you to arrange your seating arrangements on an airplane. It also gives you background information from Wikipedia at your request as well as providing you with photos from Flickr. Eventful is included as well. OpenTable is another great thing included which is a service that allows you to book your dinner reservations online to make sure you don't miss out on dining at the restaurant of your choice.

The Web site itself is easy to navigate with a friendly user interface that even the most technologically impaired people will still be able to use with ease.

On the net:
www.tripit.com



The grand duke-a-roo between eBay and Ticketmaster

Phyllis Castleton
Pacer Writer

Ticketmaster was started in 1976 in the garage of two Arizona college students, who hoped to help fellow struggling students have an opportunity to attend entertainment events without going into debt.

During the past 30 years, Ticketmaster has grown into a conglomerate with over 6,500 retail Ticket Centers and 20 worldwide telephone call centers, not to mention its infamous Web site.

Although Ticketmaster is declared to be a safe and trustworthy source for tickets, its service charges and order processing fees have increased over the years, and has made it more difficult for consumers to purchase tickets at their retail value. There is a service

charge applied to each ticket you purchase, and an order processing fee added to the order as a whole.

As stated on www.ticketmaster.com, the service charges help pay for the payment services, computer hardware and software, distribution, and phone lines. The service charge fee varies depending on the venue and/or the promoters of a specified event.

Ticketmaster is sanctioned to sell the tickets; but what eBay is allowing could be crossing the line, and can even be considered illegal in most states.

According to eBay's Frequently Asked Questions section, scalping tickets is illegal in select states; however, selling tickets for their retail price is permitted nationwide, and the reselling of tickets for more is legal in most

states.

This causes a bit of confusion because the definition of a scalper is "someone who buys something and resells it at a price far above the initial cost." With this being said, eBay doesn't condone the scalping of tickets, but it doesn't have any repercussion for those who do it. Scalpers buy the maximum number of tickets on Ticketmaster in order to sell them on eBay for a much higher price.

In fact, in Tennessee it is actually legal to scalp tickets. According to an article from the Knoxville New Sentinel, it has been legal for nearly 20 years. The article quoted Sharon Curtis Flair, spokeswoman for the Tennessee attorney general's office, who said, "The law, which made it criminal to resell tickets at a premium or profit

more than face value, was repealed in 1989, when the entire criminal code was changed." Before the law was changed it was a misdemeanor to scalp tickets for more than retail value.

Ticketmaster will always have service fees that are only getting more expensive. On the other hand, eBay has some great deals on good seats if you are willing to take the time to search, and if you realize that you may not get the tickets at all if you do not wind up the winning bidder.

Then again, eBay's popularity may be the partial cause for Ticketmaster's rising fees and cost. These questions are uncertain, but definitely something to ponder when you buy tickets online in the future.

what's on your wishlist?

A preview of gadgets topping wishlists this holiday season.

games

Video game consoles like the XBOX 360 and the Nintendo Wii offer a large variety of games appealing to those of all ages. A few of the most recently released video games you might look out for are Halo 3 and Rock Band for the 360, and Super Mario Galaxy and Fire Emblem: Radiant Dawn for the Wii.

digital cameras

Along with their fashionably sleek design, these new pocket digital cameras include the latest and most user-friendly features available, making them a great gift for this upcoming holiday season.

televisions

With movies and T.V. making the switch from analog to digital, HDTV's are quickly becoming a home entertainment staple. Samsung and Panasonic offer the largest and clearest picture available with their new plasma models out this season.

mp3 players

Apple's line of iPods has dominated the mp3 player market for the past few years, with new designs continuously being released. The most recent of these includes the new iPod Nano, with a widened frame to better view videos. Microsoft isn't about to let Apple have all the fun, however. The Zune is a good iPod alternate which includes innovative features, such as allowing users to sync libraries and share music wirelessly.

cell phones

New phones like the Apple iPhone and the LG Voyager master the art of convergence by providing a variety of features in one small wireless handheld device. They include features like touch screens, mp3 capability, digital cameras, and more.

computers

Whether it's a PC or Apple, desktop or notebook, this holiday season ushers a variety of new models with oodles of features to spark your fancy.

PACER GRAPHICS/JENNIFER DE YESO

BioShock a sure hit for Xbox 360

Rachel Moore
Staff Writer

Without a doubt, BioShock is one of the best looking games to have ever come out for the Xbox 360.

At the beginning of the game, you are involved in a plane crash and land in the water out in the middle of nowhere. The water and fire look so realistic that it is hard to believe that it isn't a cut scene. But once you sit there for a few moments and nothing happens, you realize that you actually have to move. And that's where the awe begins.

The game takes place in Rapture, a city built entirely underwater. It was built by a man named Andrew Ryan, a man who wanted to get away from the 'para-

sites' of modern day society and build a sort of utopia of his own. It worked... for awhile.

The humans who followed Ryan down to Rapture began to take a serum called plasma and have become known as splicers. You have to watch out for these guys, because they are very willing to rip your throat out.

The story has a rather complicated plotline, one that involves brainwashing, double-crossing and little girls known as the Little Sisters.

The Little Sisters aren't much of a problem. It's the Big Daddies you have to watch out for.

The Big Daddies are the bodyguards of the Little Sisters, and they are the

famous baddies of the game. They are huge, hulking, frightening, and very, very scary.

Despite all of the wonderful graphics of the game, the ending is incredibly disappointing. The game does have many different endings, and it depends on how you play the game as to what ending you receive. But at least one ending is short, abrupt and has absolutely nothing to do with the game. And, really, who wants to go back and play through 30 hours of game in order to get another ending?

Skyhawk football finishes 2007 season on high note

Emily Ulderich
Pacer Writer

The UT Martin Skyhawks began the 2007 football campaign with high hopes for a promising season. They were picked to finish third in the Ohio Valley Conference even though they lost seven defensive starters from the previous year's team.

However, the season started on a sour note. The Skyhawks lost their first three non-conference games to Southern Mississippi, Missouri State, and Central Arkansas, giving up a stunning 134 points in the process.

Spirits were still high as the team began their OVC slate. Over the next few games, the tenacious defense from the 2006 team returned, but the offense began to sputter.

The team's next three games were true heart-breakers. The Skyhawks lost their first three conference games to Austin Peay, Tennessee Tech, and Jacksonville State by a combined nine points. A field goal was the difference in each game.

The Skyhawks went into Homecoming with a 0-6 record. At this point, the season began to turn.

The team picked up their first win of the season with a 31-21 victory over Samford at Homecoming.

The team also had a victory in sight the following week at Eastern Illinois. They trailed 29-23 when senior Jamaal Akbar made a catch on the one-yard line with only one second left. Unfortunately, the team



JOHN SUMMERS / The Pacer

The UT Martin Skyhawk football team sets up at the line of scrimmage during the 31-21 Homecoming victory over Samford on Oct. 13. Dexter Anoka (4) scans the Samford defense while Don Chapman (1) prepares for a possible carry.

was out of timeouts and time ran out when quarterback Cade Thompson tried to spike the ball in order to have time to set up another play.

Spirits were lifted the next week with a 55-20 win over Southeast Missouri. The Skyhawk defense held the OVC's top-ranked rushing offense (at the time) to only 60 yards.

The next week, senior running back Don Chapman

played a huge role in UTM's 76-34 victory over Murray State. Chapman ran the ball 23 times for 204 yards and four touchdowns. During this outstanding performance, he became just the 14th player ever in college football history to run for over 1,000 yards in four consecutive seasons.

Chapman capped off his career by running for 103 yards and two touchdowns in the team's 43-38

victory at Tennessee State. It was Chapman's seventh 100-yard game of the season. He finished the season with 1,125 yards and 11 touchdowns.

By ending the season with three straight victories, the Skyhawks improved to 4-7 overall and 4-4 in OVC play and finished sixth in the OVC.

The 13 seniors should still be proud of the hard-fought season. They turned

the season around after the first few games. Also, their four OVC losses were by a combined 15 points.

Senior linebacker Josh Yarbrough was named to the All-OVC first team defense. Five others also received honors. Chapman was named to the All-OVC second team offense along with guard Kevin Bannon and tackle Adam Hansen. Defensive lineman Ray Williams was named to

the All-OVC second team defense, and quarterback Cade Thompson was named to the OVC all-newcomer team.

The Skyhawks showed character by overcoming a rough start to the season. Hopefully, their three-game winning streak will continue into next season.

Women's basketball road woes continue in Lone Star State with two losses, team falls to 3-4

UTM Athletic
Communications

The University of Tennessee at Martin women's basketball team struggled to score from the field and ran into a hungry Texas A&M-Corpus Christi team, falling 71-53 at the American Bank Arena. UT Martin dropped to 3-3 on the year, while the Islanders picked up their first win of the season and move to 1-6. Crystal Fuller led the Skyhawks in scoring with 17 points.

To open the game, the Skyhawks struggled through their longest scoreless streak of the season as Texas A&M-Corpus Christi held UT Martin scoreless for the first 10:09 of the game. In the process, the Islanders were able to open up a 19-0 lead before Fuller connected on a three-pointer from the top of the key. The three was the first of Fuller's four-year career and sparked an 8-0 run for the Skyhawks. That cut the Islander lead to 19-8 with 7:38 remaining in the half.

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi continued its' hot hand throughout the first half, shooting 59 percent from the field and over 47 percent from three-point range. The Islanders pushed their first half lead to as much 22 before UT Martin was able to cut it to 16 going into the break.

The Skyhawks opened the second half immediately cutting the lead to only 14 on a Phyllisha Mitchell jumper. The Islanders answered with an Elisa Beagle layup. On the next



PAULA COMERLATO / The Pacer

Nicole Holman runs the point in an earlier game this season.

possession, Nicole Holman found a seam and drove to the basket but was hobbled along the way. After falling to the ground and clutch-

ing her knee, Holman was helped to the bench where she would remain for the rest of the game.

That would be the closest

the Skyhawks got in the second half as the Islanders gained their largest advantage of the night at 69-41 with 5:11 left in the second half. From that point on, the Skyhawks closed the game on a 12-2 run that cut the final deficit to only 18.

"We didn't play well at all tonight," said Skyhawk head coach Tara Tansil. "We came out very flat and didn't show any intensity to start the game. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi had more energy was able to take advantage of that early and never let up."

The Skyhawks fell again on the road in Texas on Monday.

The team ended its game against Texas-Pan American on a 14-2 run in the last three minutes but it was not enough to knock off the Lady Broncs. UT Martin fell 62-56, dropping its overall record to 3-4 on the year. The Lady Broncs improved to 4-3 on the year. Marie Goyette led the Skyhawks scoring attack with a career high 20 points, including four three-point baskets.

Through seven games, Fuller leads the team in scoring, averaging 17.3 points per game. Phyllisha Mitchell leads the team in rebounds and is also averaging a double-double.

The Skyhawks open Ohio Valley Conference play Saturday, Dec. 8, when they host Jacksonville State at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. Tipoff is set for 4 p.m.

The game will be the first of 20 conference games for the Skyhawks.

Skyhawk men rely on freshmen for win over Saint Peter's

UTM Athletic
Communications

Freshman Marquis Weddle put his first airplane trip behind him quickly as he scored a career-high 30 points to lead visiting UT Martin to a 78-74 victory over host Saint Peter's College.

Weddle was 8-for-17 from the field and 6-for-11 from three-point range. The Union City product also had five rebounds.

UT Martin freshman Andres Irarrazabal tied the game at 29-29 with a layup with 5:40 to play in the first half. The Skyhawks never trailed again in the game.

Saint Peter's cut the Skyhawks lead to three points on three different occasions in the second half. The last time the Peacocks threatened was when Wesley Jenkins knocked down a 3-pointer with 27 seconds to play in the contest. The Peacocks were forced to foul down the stretch and the Skyhawks managed to hold on for the victory.

The Skyhawks shot a disappointing 53 percent from the free throw line. Weddle was 8-for-12 at the stripe.

Defensively, the Skyhawks forced 27 turnovers and also won the battle on the boards, 36-34. Lester Hudson led the rebounding effort with nine boards. The junior also had 16 points. Carlos Wright tossed in 11 points to round out UT Martin's double-digit scorers.

Jenkins led Saint Peter's with 19 points, while Darrell Lampley and Akeem Gooding added 15 points each.

The Skyhawks are now 4-4 on the year, while Saint Peter's falls to 3-3. The Skyhawks trip to Saint Peter's was a return game for last year's ESPN BracketBusters when Saint Peter's traveled to UT Martin.

The Skyhawks open Ohio Valley Conference play Saturday, Dec. 8, when they host Jacksonville State at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. Tipoff is set for 6 p.m.

Upcoming Basketball Schedule:

- both will be at home for the OVC opener against Jacksonville State on Dec. 8 -- women will play at 4 p.m. & men will play at 6
- both will be at Morehead State on Dec. 17 -- women play at 11 a.m. and men at 6 p.m.
- both will be at Eastern Kentucky on Dec. 19 -- women play at 4:30 and men at 6:30
- men will play at UNLV Dec. 22 at 3 p.m.
- men will play at Vanderbilt Dec. 29 at 12 p.m.

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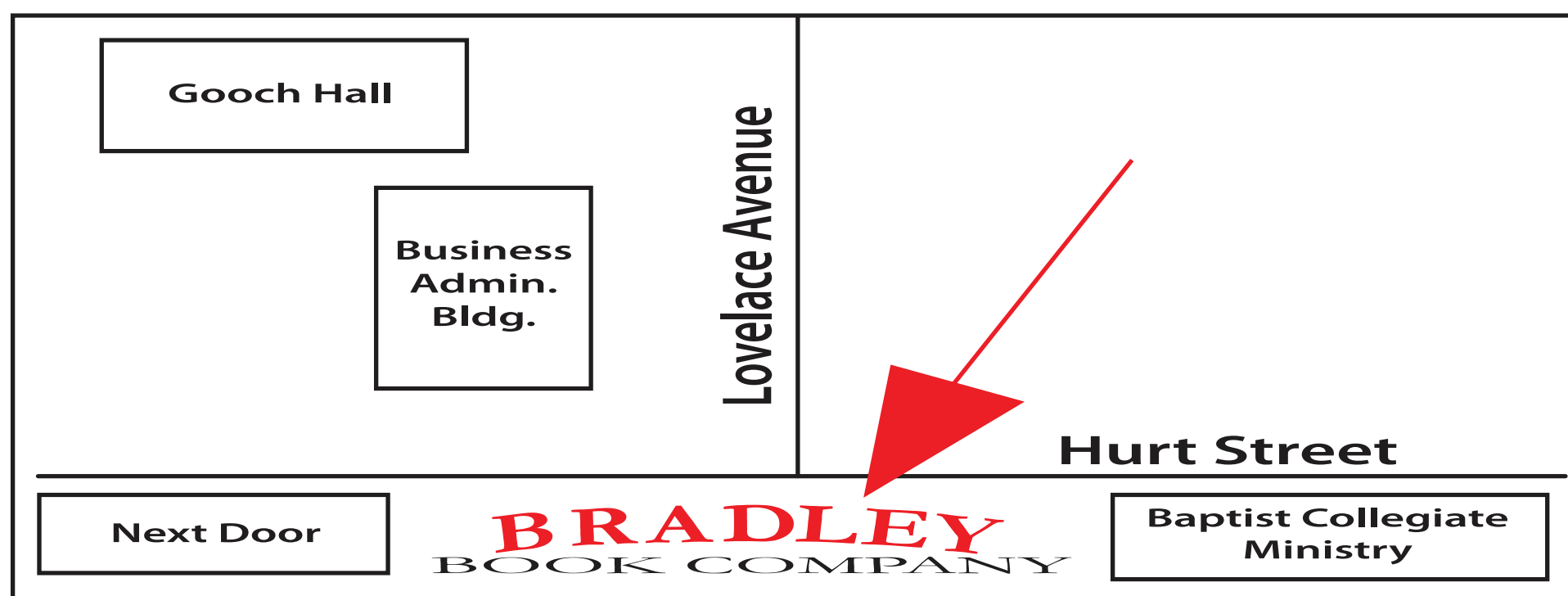
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